Vol. VI. Numb. 83

THE OBSERVATOR.

The Obſervator *and* Country-man's *farther Diſcourſe about Frugality in the Sallaries and Profits of thoſe in publick Poſts; and that thoſe who enjoy them, ſhould contribute largely toward the War. Of preventing our Loſſes by Sea, and attacking* France *from the* Channel. *The Defence of a Gentleman who thought himſelf charg'd with delaying the Exchange of Priſoners in our laſt.*

From Saturday, December 13. to Wednesday, December 17. 1707.

Country-m. YOUR Account of the Frugality of the *Dutch*, runs very much in my Head, Maſter, and makes me think it one of the beſt Ways in the World *to beat the Devil out of the Chair*; which we honeſt *Britains* too frequently want to have done.

Obſ. Let me underſtand you, *Roger?* I don't know what you mean.

Country-m. Why, Maſter, I remember when Sir *Patience Ward* was Alderman of *London*, about the Time of the Popiſh Plot, he was very zealous for the Intereſt of his Country, and for the Liberties of the City; but when he came to be Lord Mayor, a Friend of his, who thought he flagg'd in his Zeal, ask'd him the Reaſon, and Sir *Patience* reply'd, *he believ'd the Devil was in the Chair.*

Obſ. What of all that, *Roger?*

Country-m. Why, Maſter, I believe Sir *Patience* was in the Wrong; for I am ſatisfy'd the Devil may now and then get into Men, who are advanc'd to Places of Power and Profit, but I don't think the Devil is in the Places. However, ſince 'tis a hard Thing to make Men honeſt, I think the *Dutch* are to be commended for making their Poſts honeſt; that is, not to let the Power and Profit attending them, be ſo great, as to tempt Men to be diſhoneſt to the Government and their Country, and to oppreſs or envy their Fellow Subjects; for were not the Bait ſuitable to covetous and ambitious Tempers, the Enemy of Mankind would not have ſo much Opportunity to tempt ſuch Men to leave no Stone unturn'd 'till they get into thoſe Poſts, and to play the Knave when they obtain 'em.

Obſ. You are much in the Right, Country-man; and I know no Reaſon why our Government ſhould ſuffer it ſelf to be made ſo uneaſy about thoſe Poſts, eſpecially during ſuch a long and expenſive War. And ſince you talk of driving the Devil out of the Chair, I fancy, if our Superiors ſee no Inconveniency in it, one good Way to effect it, would be, that thoſe who have ſuch beneficial Poſts, as to raiſe themſelves ſuddenly to great Eſtates, ſhould be oblig'd to contribute largely towards the War; for 'tis hard, while the Crown and the Nation is impoveriſh'd by it, that ſo many of their Servants ſhould be allow'd to grow unmeaſurably rich, and that too in ſuch Poſts as make People ſuſpect the Poſſeſſors could never acquire ſo much Wealth by 'em, if they acted fairly towards the Government that employs 'em.

Country-m. Aye, Maſter, and if any Body do but touch upon their Miſmanagement, then all the Under-ſpur-Leathers in Town and Country are employ'd to beſpatter ſuch as do ſo, and to libel them as Enemies to the Government, as embark'd in this or t'other Faction, and that they only make a Noiſe to get into the Places themſelves.

Obſ. I know that to be true, *Roger*; but at the ſame Time could wiſh there were leſs of Party, both in Accuſation and Defence, for that's the Bane of our Nation, and yet has as little Reaſon in it, as if all the Butchers about Town ſhould have reckon'd themſelves concern'd in the Charge of being Highway-men, becauſe *Whitney* (one of that Employment) was hang'd for Robbery. This puts me in Mind, *Roger*, of a witty Saying of King *Charles* the II. His Queen begg'd the Life of a *Portugueze*, that was condemn'd to be hang'd for Felony, and us'd this as an Argument; *That it would be a Reflection upon her and her Country. There's nothing in that, Madam*, replies the King, *for you hear of a great many of my Country-men hang'd every Seſſions.*

Country-m. A very juſt Anſwer, Maſter. I would give all the Horſes in my Team, on Condition the Kingdom were rid of thoſe Parties.

Obſ. Pray what News do the laſt *Flanders* Mails bring, *Roger?*

Country-m. News, Maſter! More ſtill than's good. They tell us, That in a Fortnight's Time the Privateers of *St. Malo* have brought in 16 Prizes; one of 'em an *Engliſh Levant* Ship, valu'd at 650000 Livres; and that 13 Galleons are expected in the Ports of *Spain*, from *Carthagena* in the *Weſt Indies*, by the End of *January*; ſo that I can ſee no End of our Naval Loſſes, Maſter, and but little Proſpect of a Stop to our Enemies having all the Trade and Money of the *Spaniſh Weſt Indies*, while we loſe both, and our Ships into the Bargain; for I ſuppoſe you have heard of our loſing two more Men of War at *Antego*, by Storm, the *Winchelſea* and *Child's-play*, a fifth and ſixth Rate; and that our Men of War in the *Straights*, are ſo much weaken'd by Sickneſs and Mortality, that they have been oblig'd to take 450 Marines on Board, with Conſent of the *Genoeze.*

Obſ. I am ſorry for thoſe Things, *Roger*; but you muſt not deſpair of Redreſs, ſince our Houſes of Parliament have the State of our Navy and Trade under Conſideration.

Country-m. Far be it from me, Maſter, to think, that the Judges of all the Nation do any otherwiſe than righteouſly: They neither can, nor will proceed, but according to Evidence; and if that be defective, 'tis none of their Fault. But I have ſpoke to my Repreſentatives, Maſter, that if no Body be found to have had any Hand in our Naval Loſſes and Diſgraces, either by Deſign or Neglect, for the Time paſt, that they will at leaſt take Care to do as much as is poſſible to prevent the like for Time to come. I told 'em, Maſter, there was a parcel of unlucky Boys in our Neighbourhood, that us'd to play at Foot-ball, and break our Windows; and yet, when we chid them for it, would not own, that any Body did it; upon which my Neighbours and I reſolv'd, that tho' we could not prove who broke our Windows for Time paſt, all thoſe who play'd at Foot-ball, ſhould pay for 'em, if they were broke in Time to come, and be puniſh'd into the Bargain.

Obſ. Very well, *Roger*: We are not to doubt but our Repreſentatives will make a thorough Enquiry, whether our Naval Loſſes and Diſgraces have happen'd thro' Miſmanagement, or Want of a ſufficient Naval Force? And that if we have not Men of War enough to protect our Trade, and annoy our Enemy, that Care will be taken to ſupply that Defect, by hiring from our Neighbours, 'till we build more of our own.

Country-m. I am but a dull Country Fellow, Maſter, yet I ſhould think it were an eaſy Matter, by conſulting our Merchants, to know what Number of Convoys they will need, and when they muſt have

have them: And that by considering the State of the War for the next Year, it may soon be computed how many are necessary to be made Use of against the Enemy, and a sufficient Number appointed for both those Purposes. I am sure, Master, 'tis necessary, that a particular Regard should be had to our Trade; for besides the Loss of our present Profit, if that ben't taken Care of, it may take another Channel, and we shall lose it forever: For by all Accounts, I perceive, the *French* King uses his utmost Efforts, to ingross the Trade of *Spain*, and their *West Indies*, to himself; and if he effect that, he will still be too hard for all the rest of *Europe*.

Obs. That's too true, *Roger*; and therefore it has been the Opinion of our Greatest Men, from Time to Time, that the only Way to humble the *French* King, was, to ruin his Naval Power; which can't be done, without taking special Care to preserve our own. I have been told, *Roger*, that when K. *William* first declar'd War against *France*, Major *Wildman*, who was no contemptible Person for Sense or Experience, advis'd him to prosecute it chiefly by Sea; and that the late D. of *Schomberg*, tho' a Great Land General, was of the same Opinion: But that Prince, who did not much care to be advis'd by any Body in Matters of War or Government, lik'd neither of 'em the better for it. And we all know, *Roger*, how little *Great Britain* gain'd by the Land War during his Reign; and how many Millions the Managers then left the Nation in Debt to pay, is too well known; and we may see plain enough now, that our matchless Land Victories at *Hocksset* and *Ramillies*, have been far from ruining *France*, tho' they were stunning Blows.

Country-m. Master, here's a Letter from a Gentleman, who takes himself to be aim'd at in the Complaint mention'd in our *Observator* of the 13th of *December* last, relating to the Delay of Exchange of Prisoners in *France*; and he desires he may be heard in his Turn.

Obs. The Demand is so equitable, *Roger*, and so like a Man of Innocency and Honour, that we cannot refuse it. Pray read it?

Country-m. I will, Master; it is thus:

"IT is found the Complaint comes from one *Gibson*, formerly employ'd by the Commissioners "for Exchange of Prisoners, who was turn'd out "for Misbehaviour in his Business, having been ac- "cus'd for taking Money from those that could "give it him, for there Preference in being brought "over.

"For writing to the Commissary of *France*, that "all the *English* Prisoners might be brought from "the remotest Parts to *Dunkirk*, that he might have "the Benefit of bringing them over; by which se- "veral hundreds march'd the Length of *France*, and "many perish'd on their Journey. His boasting of "his Rewards from the *French* King, which was "thought to be for deserving his own Country; "for which, and other Reasons, the House of Lords "address'd her Majesty against him, the 31st of "*March*, 1704. in these Words:

"*It appear'd to us, That by the Neglect of the Duty "of some of the Masters of the Transport-Vessels, and "particularly of one* Gibson; *and contrary to Bonds gi- "ven, not to bring over any Passengers but Prisoners, "several Persons have been brought over in the said "Transport-Vessels out of* France, *who have been found, "by the Examination of a Committee of the Lords of this "House, to have been concern'd and trusted in the Ma- "nagement of the* Scotch *Conspiracy.*

"And the undeniable Proof on Oath against e- "very Charge in the said Letter, being ready to be "made, we hope no Body will believe the said Ac- "cusation.

Obs. The Gentleman is in the Right to think so, *Roger*; for a Man turn'd out for such Practices, by the Commissioners for the Exchange of Prisoners, and so mark'd by an Address of the House of Lords, can never be look'd upon as a fair Evidence in this Case.

Advertisements.

Just publish'd,

¶ Remarks on the reprinted Tryal of Henry Cornish, Esq; for conspiring the Death of King Charles the II. &c. on Pretence of setting the Fact in a true Light. Wherein the real Causes of that Gentleman's being put to Death, are made evident from Tryals publish'd by Authority. In Answer to the Slanders cast upon the Memory of the said Mr. Cornish, and those who join'd him, in Defence of the Rights of the Citizens of London, and of the English Constitution. With an Account of the Contradictions in the Evidence, and of the pretended Ryot at Guildhall, about the Election of Sheriffs, in 1682. with the Names of the Grand and Petty Juries that were empannell'd for the Tryal of the Alderman for his Life; of the Jury that found him and other worthy Citizens, guilty of a Ryot; and of the Sums they were fin'd in; of the Persons who kept six Aldermen, and many of the Citizens out of Guildhall, by Military Force; of the Grand and Petty Juries against my Lord Russel; and of Colonel Sidney's Jury; with Part of some Informations, taken upon Oath, by a Committee of the House of Lords, who enquir'd into the Advisers and Prosecutors in the Tryals of the Lord Russel, Colonel Sidney, Sir Thomas Armstrong, Mr. Cornish, &c. Sold by B. Bragge in Pater-Noster-Row. Price 6 d.

¶ Lost on Tuesday Night, the 9th of Dec. 1707. two Policies, each one hundred Pounds, upon the not taking of Lerida or Tortosa in October last, one No. 273, the other No. 364, with some other loose Papers of no Value but to the Owner; whoever brings them to Mr. Noah Houssay's Office in Exchange-Alley, Cornhill, shall have ten Shillings Reward.

†‡† Short-writing, the most easy, exact, lineal, and speedy Method, that hath ever been obtain'd or taught. Compos'd by Theophilus Metcalfe, Author and Professor of the said Art. The last Edition. The Copper-cuts having been newly corrected, with a Table for shortening of Words. Which Book is able to make a Practitioner perfect without a Teacher, as many Hundreds in this City, and elsewhere, that are able to write Sermons Word for Word, can from their own Experience testify. A young Man that lately liv'd in Cornhil, learned so well by this Book, that he wrote out all the Bible in this Character. Sold by M. Hotham on London-bridge. Price 1s.

Just publish'd,

¶ Victory-Cards, representing in lively Figures, on curious Copper-plates, the most memorable Battels, Sieges, Skirmishes, Sea-fights, &c. also the Effigies of the chief Confederates, drawn to the Life; together with Variety of Hieroglyphicks, drawn from the present Constitution of France, and its Monarch. The whole contriv'd not only to divert the Ingenious, but to hand down to Posterity, the stupendious Victories obtain'd by the Arms of her Majesty and her Allies, under his Grace, John Duke and Prince of Marlborough. Price 1 s. Sold by B. Bragge and J. Broomhead in Pater-Noster-Row, J. How in Talbot-Court in Gracechurch-Street, and J. Morphew near Stationers-Hall.

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*** Your old Physician Dr. *Case*, desires you not to forget him, who cures all Venereal Diseases, or the Grand P—, with all its attending Symptoms, very cheap, pleasant, and no Neglect of Business, in few Days, at *Lilly's Head*, over against *Ludgate Church*, within *Black-Fryars* Gate-way.

¶ Compleat Sets of the Observator, or single Ones, ever since it was begun by Mr. Tutchin, to this Time, are to be had of B. Bragge at the Raven in Pater-Noster-Row, and H. Meere at the Black-Fryar in Black-Fryars.

¶ Any Gentleman, who us'd to send Notice of Things formerly to Mr. Tutchin, are desir'd now to direct them to H. Meere, at the Black-Fryar in Black-Fryars, for the Observator. Where Advertisements are taken in.

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